

Employment Myths & Facts

My child is too disabled to work.

Services are individualized to support everyone, including those who are significantly disabled. Ask your Developmental Disabilities Administration case manager about what options are best for you.

My child can't be left alone.

All jobs you and your child consider will be vetted for safety and security. Often, there are supports on the job that provide oversight. Eligible job seekers have access to job coaches who can provide long-term support.

I will lose my benefits if I work.

Many people are able to work and retain essential benefits if they plan ahead. Ticket to Work is a free service that does a benefits analysis check to see how much you can work before benefits are affected.



School Disclaimers

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Cowlitz County Developmental Disability Resources



Cowlitz County Health & Human Services

1952 9th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
Phone: (360) 414-5599
Fax: (360) 425-7531



Healthy People.
Healthy Communities.

I think my loved one has a developmental disability. What are the next steps?

If you believe your loved one may have a developmental disability, contact a physician for a diagnosis and referral for early intervention services. Families, guardians, and self-advocates should also contact the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) as soon as possible. If DDA is not contacted before the individual turns 18 years old, access to many supports will not be available to otherwise eligible individuals. Connecting with The Arc of Cowlitz County helps families, guardians, and self-advocates feel supported and better informed about programs and services in the community.

Services

Each program has its own eligibility requirements. Please contact any program listed in this guide to learn more.

Early Intervention Services

Ages 0-3

- **Progress Center** — Longview, WA
(360) 425-9810 • www.theprogresscenter.org

School Age Supports

Ages 3-6

- **Educational Service District 112** — Vancouver, WA
(360) 750-7503 • www.esd112.org

Ages 7-14

- **Youth and Family Link** — Longview, WA
(360) 423-6741 • www.linkprogram.org
- **Special Olympics Washington** — Seattle, WA
(206) 362-4949 • www.specialolympicswashington.org
- **Family House Academy** — Kelso, WA
(360) 425-7481 • www.familyhouseacademy.org

High School Transition

Ages 14-Graduation

- **Ticket to Work**
1-866-968-7842 • www.choosework.ssa.gov
- **Educational Service District 112** — Vancouver, WA
(360) 750-7503 • www.esd112.org
- **STEPS** — Longview, WA
(360) 355-3145 • www.esd112.org/steps
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
(877) 501-2233 • www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr
- **Connect2Careers**
(503) 478-7347 • www.c2cpdx.org
- **Youth Employment Services**
(360) 355-3119 • www.esd112.org/yes
- **Job Foundation**
For more information, contact Sue Saxton:
SaxtonS@cowlitzwa.gov
(360) 414-5599 x6458 • www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DD
- **YMCA** — Longview, WA
(360) 423-4770 • www.longviewymca.org
- **Parks & Recreation** — Kelso, WA
(360) 577-3174 • www.co.cowlitz.wa.us
- **Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment**
360-890-3778 • www.esd.wa.gov/GCDE



Post Graduate Support

- **Goodwill** — Longview, WA
(360) 501-8340 • www.goodwill.org
- **WorkSource** — Kelso, WA
(360) 577-2250 • www.worksourcewa.com
- **WA Foundational Community Supports**
(844) 451-2828 • www.myamerigroup.com/washington-fcs
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
(877) 501-2233 • www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr
- **YMCA** — Longview, WA
(360) 423-4770 • www.longviewymca.org
- **Parks & Recreation** — Kelso, WA
(360) 577-3174 • www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

Whole Life Supports

All Ages

- **The Arc of Cowlitz County** — Longview, WA
(360) 425-5494 • www.thearc.org
- **Developmental Disabilities Services** — Kelso, WA
(360) 501-2520 • www.dshs.wa.gov/dda
- **Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities** — Longview, WA
(800) 682-2406 • www.helpingelders.org
- **Cowlitz County Health & Human Services** — Longview, WA
(360) 414-5599 • www.co.cowlitz.wa.us
- **Informing Families**
www.informingfamilies.org

Employment

Employment is more than just having a job. It gives a person financial incentives, power, status, choice, and a sense of purpose. The state of Washington believes that anyone can work if given the right support.

Nearly 70% of individuals enrolled in the DDA-supported employment program offered by Cowlitz County are employed. All employment obtained pays minimum wage or better and is located within Cowlitz County, creating more local taxpayers.